

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend page one of the specification as follows.

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

This application is a continuation-in-part of ~~pending~~ U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/571,349, ~~“Through timing of Data Transmitted across an Optical Communications System Utilizing Frequency Division Multiplexing,”~~ David Pechner and Laurence J. Newell, filed May 16, 2000, now abandoned; which is a continuation-in-part of ~~pending~~ U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/405,367, ~~“Optical Communication Networks Utilizing Frequency Division Multiplexing,”~~ by Michael W. Rowan, et al., filed Sept. 24, 1999, now issued Patent No. 6,529,303; which is a continuation-in-part of pending U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/372,143, ~~“Optical Communications Utilizing Frequency Division Multiplexing and Wavelength Division Multiplexing,”~~ by Peter H Chang, et al., filed August 20, 1999, now abandoned; which is a continuation-in-part of U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/229,594, ~~“Electrical Add Drop Multiplexing for Optical Communications Networks Utilizing Frequency Division Multiplexing,”~~ by David B Upham, et al., filed January 13, 1999, now issued Patent No. 6,452,945; which is a continuation-in-part of U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/035,630, ~~“System and Method for Spectrally Efficient Transmission of Digital Data over Optical Fiber,”~~ by Michael W. Rowan, et al., filed March 5, 1998, now abandoned. The subject matter of all of the foregoing is incorporated herein by reference.